

Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

§ 1415.2

(c) In addition to the provisions in paragraph (b) of this section, tenants must maintain their tenancy throughout the contract period in order to remain on a contract. Tenants who fail to maintain tenancy on the acreage under contract, including failure to comply with provisions under applicable State law, may be removed from a contract by CCC. CCC will assume the tenancy is being maintained unless notified otherwise by a ACRE participant specified in the applicable contract.

PART 1415—GRASSLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 3838n-3838q.

SOURCE: 74 FR 3870, Jan. 21, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1415.1 Purpose.

(a) The purpose of the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is to assist landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving and restoring grassland resources on eligible private lands through rental contracts, easements, and restoration agreements.

(b) GRP emphasizes:

- (1) Supporting grazing operations;
- (2) Maintaining and improving plant and animal biodiversity; and

(3) Protecting grasslands and shrublands from the threat of conversion to uses other than grazing.

§ 1415.2 Administration.

(a) The regulations in this part set forth policies, procedures, and requirements for program implementation of GRP, as administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The regulations in this part are administered under the general supervision and direction of the NRCS Chief and the FSA Administrator. These two agency leaders:

(1) Concur in the establishment of program policy and direction, development of the National allocation formula, and development of broad national ranking criteria.

(2) Use a national allocation formula to provide GRP funds to NRCS State Conservationists and FSA State Executive Directors that emphasizes support for grazing operations, biodiversity of plants and animals, and grasslands under the greatest threat of conversion to uses other than grazing. The national allocation formula may also include additional factors related to improving program implementation, as determined by the NRCS Chief and the FSA Administrator. The allocation formula may be modified periodically to change the emphasis of any factor(s) in order to address a particular natural resource concern, such as the precipitous decline of a population of a grassland-dependent bird(s) or animal(s).

(3) Ensure the National, State, and local level information regarding program implementation is made available to the public.

(4) Consult with USDA leaders at the State level and other Federal agencies with the appropriate expertise and information when evaluating program policies and direction.

(5) Authorize NRCS State Conservationists and FSA State Executive Directors to determine how funds will be used and how the program will be implemented at the State level.

(b) At the State level, the NRCS State Conservationist and the FSA State Executive Director are jointly responsible for: